



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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Chief Executive Officer

July 19, 2011

The Honorable Juan Vargas
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **SB 718 (Vargas)** – As Amended 06/27/11- **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Vargas:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 718. This legislation would authorize counties or the counties' designated Ombudsman, to voluntarily adopt a secure Internet reporting tool which would manage the transfer of information otherwise contained in the initial telephonic report of elder and dependent adult abuse, or subsequent written abuse reports.

Existing law requires mandated reporters to report physical abuse, abandonment, abduction, isolation, financial abuse or neglect via telephone, and as soon as practicable, but not less than 48 hours later, in writing. SB 718 would simplify the reporting process and provide an additional reporting option for mandated reporters, while reducing telephone wait times. In addition it would have the effect of increasing efficiencies in both the making and processing reports of suspected elder and dependent adult abuse.

The 2010 Census revealed that the County of San Bernardino's 65-and-over population has increased by 23.8 percent. In addition, our county's 85-and-over population has increased by 36.9 percent. Millions of dollars in funding for the Adult Protective Services program has been vetoed over the last three years, resulting in a loss of services intended to protect this vulnerable population. Therefore, it is imperative that counties are given the flexibility to manage their limited resources in the most productive and efficient manner.

For these reasons, San Bernardino County supports SB 718. If you have any questions, please contact Josh Candelaria, Deputy Legislative Director, at (909) 387-4280.

Sincerely,

JOSIE GONZALES

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee

The mission of the government of the County of San Bernardino is to satisfy its customers by providing service that promotes the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the people it serves.